

# Sixteenth Annual Report

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## MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS



1931-1932

OFFICES  
211 NORTH CALVERT STREET  
BALTIMORE - MARYLAND

Sixteenth Annual Report

MARYLAND STATE BOARD

of

MOTION PICTURE CENSORS

1931-1932

GEORGE HELLER  
Chairman

ASA C. SHARP  
Vice-Chairman and Treasurer

MARIE WHITE PRESSTMAN  
Secretary

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HELEN L. ODOM  
Chief Clerk

OFFICES

211 NORTH CALVERT STREET  
BALTIMORE - MARYLAND

*To His Excellency,*

HONORABLE ALBERT C. RITCHIE,  
Governor of Maryland.

**I**N COMPLIANCE with law and custom, the Maryland State Board of Motion Picture Censors herewith submits its annual report ending September 30, 1932, the same being the Sixteenth Annual Report since the establishment of the Board in 1916.

#### OPERATIONS OF THE BOARD

The Board reviewed 2,439 original subjects, comprising 6,582 reels, or 5,477,171 feet of film during the year. In addition, 19,938,271 feet of duplicate film passed through the office.

Results of examination of films for the year show that 9,537 were approved, two rejected, and 438 were subject to eliminations.

The report of the previous year shows that 9,280 films were approved, five rejected, and 403 deleted.

The total receipts for the year as itemized in this report were \$35,637.44, as compared with \$35,245.85 the previous year. After defraying all expenses from fees, etc., the Board turned over to the State Treasury \$3,478.63.

The classified list shows that 2,724 dramas, 2,438 comedies, 3,336 newsreels, 710 cartoons, together with 138 advertising and 631 miscellaneous films, were submitted to the Board.

The 438 films which were found to be censurable were almost entirely in the drama classification. The two rejected films were later passed in reconstructed form.

#### INSPECTION

The Board employs six paid inspectors whose duty it is to "follow up" and report all violations of the law, and to check on eliminations ordered by the Board. Traveling expenses for the year amounted to \$703.35.

## STANDARDS

There are five other states in the United States in which censorship boards operate under a state-wide regulation as in Maryland. These are New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kansas and Virginia. Varying standards applicable to local conditions prevail in the different states. Chicago maintains a municipal board of censors drastic in its regulation of fire-arms on the screen; Boston maintains a censorship board applicable to Sunday movies. No two state or city boards have exactly the same standards or regulations.

The Maryland Board corresponds regularly with the five other state boards and exchanges monthly reports with them.

The Maryland Censors are constantly in touch with the producers in Hollywood and New York. Consultations frequently occur through representatives calling on the Maryland Board, and thereby effective work is done to discourage the filming of udesirable subjects.

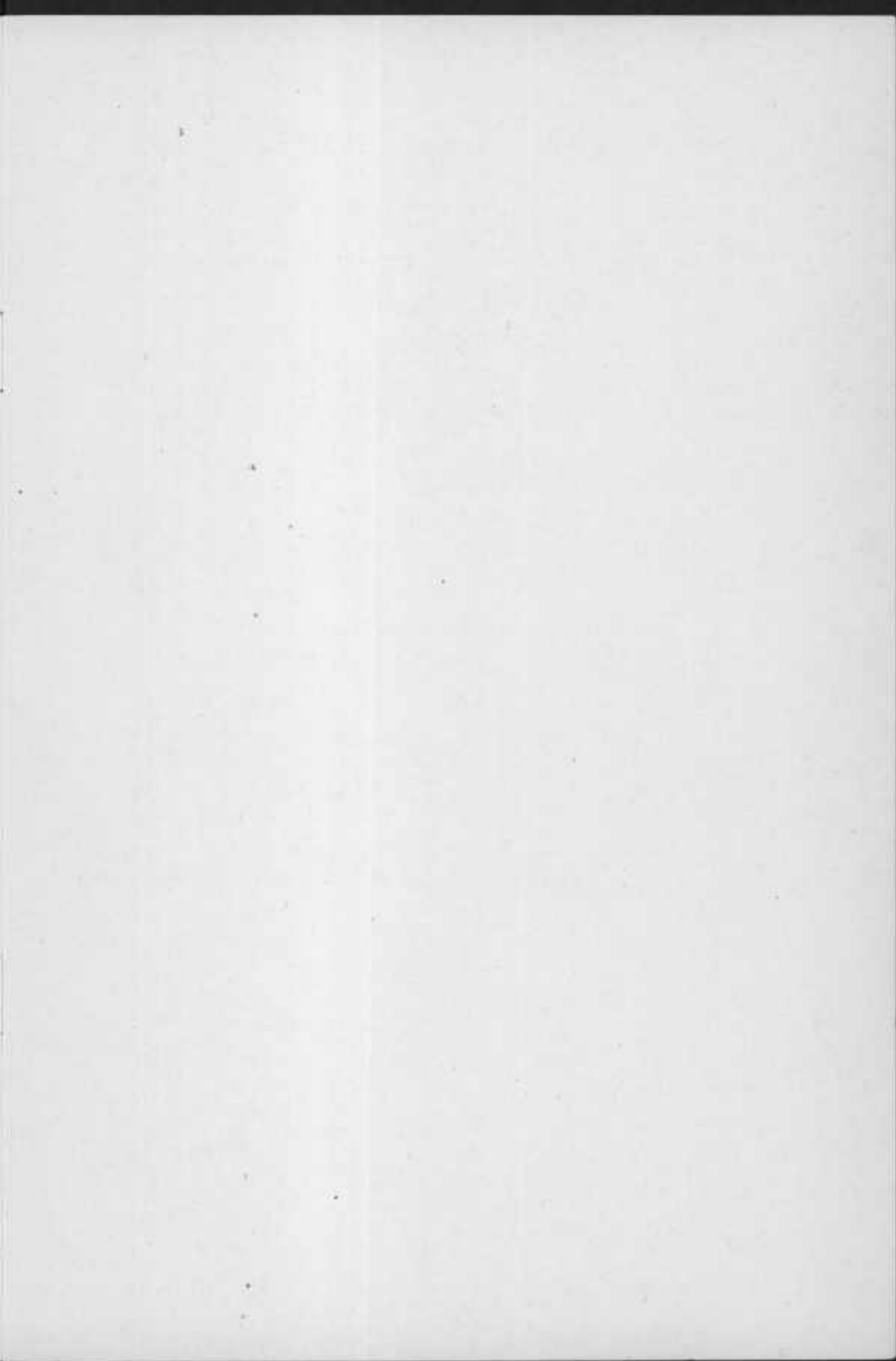
Producers are disposed to meet the requirements of state censorship laws, and frequently films exhibited here approved by the Board have already been revised before shipment is made into the State.

The Board commends the efficient work of its clerks and inspectors during the past year, and also expresses its appreciation of the cooperation shown on the part of the motion picture theatre owners and managers, and film exchanges.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE HELLER, *Chairman*  
ASA C. SHARP, *Vice-Chairman*  
MARIE W. PRESSTMAN, *Secretary*

December 31, 1932



MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS

BUDGET ACCOUNT  
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

For fiscal year ended September 30, 1932

Receipts

Balance, September 30, 1931 .....	\$400.00	
State Treasurer, Direct .....	\$190.00	
State Treasurer, through Comptroller .....	31,968.81	
	<u>32,158.81</u>	\$32,558.81

Disbursements

Traveling .....	\$150.00	
Communication .....	40.00	
	<u>\$190.00</u>	

Paid Through Comptroller

Salaries and Wages .....	\$25,219.87	
Office Supplies and Stationery .....	230.89	
Printing .....	298.00	
Film Approval Seals .....	1,250.00	
Motion Picture Machine Supplies .....	75.03	
Repairs .....	24.60	
Light, Heat, Power and Water .....	345.90	
Traveling .....	553.35	
Communication .....	260.02	
Insurance .....	60.00	
Office Equipment .....	121.15	
Motion Picture Equipment .....	1,130.00	
Rent .....	2,400.00	
	<u>31,968.81</u>	32,158.81
Balance, September 30, 1932 .....		\$400.00

**MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS**

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**STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS**

For fiscal year ended September 30, 1932

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**Receipts**

Fees, Censorship (Original Feet 5,477,171) .....	\$12,461.00
Fees, Censorship (Duplicate Feet 19,938,271) .....	22,140.00
Sale of Substitute Seals (973) at \$1.00 .....	973.00
Telephone Calls .....	21.00
Refund, Salary Account .....	7.50
Refund, Traveling Account .....	18.33
Interest on Deposit .....	16.61
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	\$35,637.44

**Disbursements**

Remitted to State Treasurer .....	\$35,637.44
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**Bank Reconciliation**

Union Trust Company:	
Balance, September 30, 1932 .....	\$2,974.30
Check No. 121 Remitted to State Treasurer, Outstanding. ....	2,974.30

**MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS**  
**REPORT OF FILMS EXAMINED**

**OCTOBER 1, 1931—SEPTEMBER 30, 1932**

	Films Original	Films Duplicate	Reels Original	Reels Duplicate	No. of Feet Original	No. of Feet Duplicate	Films Approved	Films Rejected	Films Eliminated
October . . .	252	669	610	2,005	533,191	1,824,275	875	0	46
November . .	199	599	549	1,890	460,193	1,620,563	743	0	55
December . .	225	664	631	2,055	539,796	1,774,270	827	0	62
January . . .	217	643	565	2,102	479,031	1,811,152	811	0	49
February . .	212	708	587	2,363	490,137	2,038,302	882	1	37
March . . . .	206	655	565	1,943	475,716	1,649,697	833	1	27
April . . . . .	194	637	549	1,944	449,015	1,708,927	793	0	38
May . . . . .	182	631	487	1,939	404,826	1,644,935	794	0	19
June . . . . .	168	578	482	1,663	402,493	1,420,234	707	0	39
July . . . . .	175	529	413	1,178	328,200	1,352,034	673	0	31
August . . . .	191	574	510	1,775	427,401	1,520,286	750	0	15
September . .	218	651	584	1,870	487,172	1,573,596	849	0	20
	2,439	7,538	6,582	22,727	5,477,171	19,938,271	9,537	*2	438

\*Two films later passed in reconstructed form.

**SUMMARY OF REPORT**

Films, Original . . . . .	2,439			
Films, Duplicate . . . . .	7,538			
Reels, Original . . . . .		6,582		
Reels, Duplicate . . . . .		22,727		
Number of Feet, Original . . . . .			5,477,171	
Number of Feet, Duplicate . . . . .			19,938,271	
Films Approved . . . . .				9,537
Films Rejected . . . . .				2
Films Eliminated . . . . .				438
	9,977	29,309	25,415,442	9,977



**CLASSIFICATION OF FILMS**  
**OCTOBER 1, 1931—SEPTEMBER 30, 1932**

	Dramas	Comedies	News	Cartoons	Advertising	Miscellaneous
October . . . . .	250	234	298	55	14	70
November . . . . .	209	241	253	54	9	32
December . . . . .	240	248	281	52	11	57
January . . . . .	233	209	291	55	6	66
February . . . . .	274	236	291	73	9	37
March . . . . .	223	212	284	64	14	64
April . . . . .	263	187	286	52	15	28
May . . . . .	228	200	268	68	2	47
June . . . . .	193	186	280	40	13	34
July . . . . .	184	131	275	67	11	36
August . . . . .	219	142	263	63	5	73
September . . . . .	208	212	266	67	29	87
Totals . . . . .	2,724	2,438	3,336	710	138	631